

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 15, with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 9 is a flowchart of steps for freezing WBD content in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. To freeze a WBD in general, annotation software 170 first gains access to the content of the WBD (step 905). Since some WBDs are composed of different layers that may behave differently upon browser resizing, annotation software 170 wraps the existing WBD layers into one fix-sized layer (step 910). With all the layers wrapped, the next task is to examine the properties of the WBD elements (step 915). WBD elements, which encompass any content on the WBD (e.g., single word, paragraph, image, buttons implemented in JavaScript), may contain certain properties that cause the element to move during browser resizing. For instance, an element property may require the element to stay fixed to the side-size of the WBD no matter how the browser is sized. Therefore, if a WBD element contains properties that cause that element to become unfrozen ("yes" branch of step 920), then those properties are modified so that the element remains in a fixed position through browser resizing (step 925). Since WBD elements are organized in a tree-like fashion, with the root element at the top and all children below, the next inquiry is whether children elements exist (step 930). If children elements exists, their properties are similarly examined (step 935) and, if appropriate, modified (step 925), and the process repeats until all elements have been examined ("no" branch of step 930).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 31, with the following amended paragraph:

After user 200 initiates an annotation event, annotation software 170 appends technical information about the annotation into annotation record 500 (step 1135). In this step, the annotation image is appended to image file 1000 referenced by a pointer to image file 545. Annotation software 170 positions the annotation element so that the location of the drawing marks in image file 1000 corresponds to the location of the drawing marks that user 200 made on the screen.

Appln. No.: 09/521,022
Amendment dated May 4, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 12, 2004

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 16, with the following amended paragraph:

Annotation software 170 creates a new note record 700 in note database 295 for every text-based note or audio annotation that user 200 creates. For each note record 700, annotation software 170 generates a unique ID number for note ID 710, and adds that ID number to the list of note IDs 555 of the associated annotation record 500. Annotation repository 240 stores the type of note in note type 720, and the text of the note in note text 730. If user 200 associates an audio annotation with the note, the audio annotation is stored in an audio file in streaming audio format (e.g., .wav., .mp3, RealAudio) in note database 295, and its location is stored in a pointer to audio file 740.